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TV for Children  
What's good?  
What's bad?

Critics of television concede that there are informative, educational, and genuinely entertaining programs so we cannot give TV a blanket dismissal even though program after program is mediocre or downright bad. And this season's offerings are less adequate than ever. Children's program time is crowded with violence and terror. Shows end with frightening episodes deliberately contrived to make youngsters so anxious they'll be sure to tune in the following week. The potential harm to youngsters is apparent to many parents, and has been noted time and again by educators, ministers and psychiatrists. The harm that can

~~hand~~ come to youngsters is a great concern to parents. Parents wish to seek out and support good programs for ~~youth~~ youthful viewers. It is extremely important for parents to guide and supervise their children's ~~the~~ television viewing. There is an urgent need for programs of depth and high quality for children and young people, programs which provide humor, entertainment, and a balanced view of social affairs to stir children's imagination in constructive ways. Too many shows have a increase of violence, brutality, and sex. To children, television is not only make-believe, it is a means by which they construct attitudes, loves, fears, securities + hates. Over the year children spend as much time viewing TV as attending school. Lets give

them something decent to model  
after. PLEASE.

Thae Masse  
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**fce**  
National Association For  
Family & Community Education

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March 30, 1995

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**APR 18 1995**  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Rachelle Chong  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I strongly support strengthening the requirements of the Children's Television Act of 1990 so that the intent of this law can be carried out. The potential for the benefit of television to children in positive, educational messages is needed now, more than ever. The over the air broadcasters received their licenses free and, in return, are obligated to serve the public good.

It is important that this act be enforced because over the air broadcasters still reach more people than cable. Cable has some good programs for children, but also many programs children shouldn't be watching. Those who do not have cable are a higher percentage of low income families. Cable cannot solve our "educational and informational" programming for children.

Public television is providing some excellent programs, but they can't do it all. It doesn't release the broadcasters from their obligations. And, of course, I am concerned about what will happen with public TV. It certainly needs to remain non-commercial.

This country needs to place a priority on raising our children to be educated, productive citizens. It is important that the broadcasters play a small part in that obligation to our future.

Please, for our children, strengthen the regulations so that children may benefit with an hour of programming a day, regularly scheduled, at a time when they are watching. After school and early evening hours would be an excellent time.

I am concerned that no one I talk to, including some people in the television business, has ever heard of the Children's Television Act. I have been doing an "informal" survey as I have taken some trips around the country in the last several months. How can parents be contacting you with their concerns, if they don't know anything about this Act?

Thank you for all you are doing to improve the quality of programming for our children.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Gargasz*  
Carolyn Gargasz

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